wherein a light quantity of light which is incident on said image sensor is balanced among colors in accordance with an original type by adjusting said light quantity of light which is issued from a light source and incident on an original in accordance with the original type.

A1

2. (Amended) The image reading method according to claim 1, wherein balancing said light quantity among colors is formed by changing an optical balance in an optical system from the light source to the image sensor including the original.

4. (Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:

an image sensor which separates into three primary colors light bearing an image of an original and photoelectrically reads said light;

original type acquiring means for detecting or setting an original type of said original; and

A2

light quantity balance adjusting means for catching among colors a balance of light quantity of said light that is incident on said image sensor in accordance with the original type obtained by said original type acquiring means by adjusting light quantity of light which is issued from a light source and incident on an original in accordance with the original type, said light quantity balance adjusting means being provided between said light source and said original in accordance with the original type.

5. (Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said light quantity balance adjusting means changes an optical balance in an optical system from the light source to the image sensor including said original.

A2

6. (Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said light quantity balance adjusting means changes an optical balance in an optical system from the light source to the image sensor including said original and decreases color mixing in the three primary colors.

10. (Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

A3

spectral sensitivity changing means for changing a spectral sensitivity distribution of said light in accordance with the original type after the balance of the light quantity is adjusted among colors, as well as said respective means.

12. (Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said peak value changing means of said spectral sensitivity distribution changes a peak value of the spectral sensitivity distribution in an optical system from the light source to the image sensor including said original.

A4

Please add the following claims:

--15. The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said light quantity of light which is incident on said image sensor is balanced with every color in accordance with the original type.

16. The image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said light quantity balance adjusting means catches with every color the balance of the light quantity of said light that is incident on said image sensor in accordance with the original type.

17. An image reading method, comprising the steps of:

reading photoelectrically an original image with an image sensor by separating it into three primary colors;

converting image signals of the three primary colors outputted from the image sensor into digital signals;

emitting a quantity of light from a light source through a light quantity adjusting device to an original; and

balancing said quantity of light which is incident on said image sensor among colors by adjusting said quantity of light which is issued from the light source and incident on the original with said light quantity adjusting device in accordance with a type of the original.--